

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

November 20, 2012

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 6 p.m. in Room 212 of the Middletown High School. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.

Member Present: Anne Baptista, Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Christian Lambiase, Austin Pendergast, John Pinto and Ed Sisk

Ex-officio Members:

Present: None

Absent: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison (Excused), Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission

Town Officials: Tim Shaw, Recreation Director

Others Present: Barbara Gifford, Park Steward, Linden Park; Dick Adams, Observer

Agenda

Old Business:.

- Standards for Parks: Benches, Signage, Bicycle Racks, Etc. The**

committee continued its review of the materials gathered by Tim Shaw from other communities and the Department of Environmental Management's Division of Parks and Recreation. The committee broadened its review to include Middletown's memorial policy. The committee concluded the following four matters needed to be addressed at future meetings: (1) the selection of a standard bench; (2) the determination of the price for benches donated as memorial benches; (3) the determination of parks in which benches were needed and their location within those parks; and (4) a review and draft revision of the memorial policy document.

- **Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update.** No update available.

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Planning for Tibbets/Boulevard Sustainable Use.** No update available.

- o **The Valley—Moving Forward.** No update available.

- o **Dunlap-Wheeler.** No update available

- o **Howland.** Tim Shaw reported the BBQ grills had still not been received.

- **Park Procedures and Protocols.** Anne will provide updated drafts at the December meeting.

- **Site Visits to Other Middletown Parks.** None planned.

- **Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report.** Nick Coogan, OS&F's representative to the committee, reported that the committee had held its initial organization meeting and conducted a visit to the existing facility. Future meetings are planned.

New Business:

- **December Elections.** It was noted that the bylaws provided that three officers (chairman, vice chairman and recording secretary) were to fill two-year terms and that all three current officers have terms that will expire at the end of the year. It was decided to hold elections for all three officers in December.

- **Term Limits.** The bylaws also provide that a committee member may only serve two consecutive terms in the same office. The current chairman and vice chairman will complete their first two-year terms at the end of December and can be re-elected, however, the recording secretary will complete his second term and be ineligible to serve a third term.

The following motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved:

That the Town Council revise paragraph 8 of the committee's bylaws, which currently provide as follows:

"The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Recording Secretary. Officers shall be elected bi-annually for a two (2) year term and may serve two (2) consecutive terms in such office."

by deleting the words " and may serve two (2) consecutive terms in such office."

The Recording Secretary was directed to submit the approved motion to the Town Administrator for submission to the Town Council.

• Committee Vacancies. Anne Baptista advised that she had submitted her resignation effective December 31 because she no longer had the time necessary to serve on the committee. Christian Lambiase, who has not attended a meeting in over a year, had earlier advised that she was resigning, but had taken no action to do so. The Recording Secretary was directed to submit a memorandum to the Town Council describing the circumstances and asking that she be removed as a member.

• Proposed Agenda Items for December Meeting.

- o Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update**
- o Park Procedures and Protocols**
- o Standards for Parks: Benches, Signage, Bicycle Racks, Etc.**
- o Properties Updates**

 Planning for Tibbets/Boulevard Sustainable Use

 The Valley—Moving Forward

 Other Parks

o Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report

o Proposed Agenda Items for January 2013 Meeting

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary